

OFFICE OF THE  
SOUTH CHURCH,  
(Congregational).

ARTHUR DIETRICK, Minister,  
Residence, 20 Chestnut St.

PEABODY, MASS., 10-1-06.

THE FIRST MONTHLY REPORT OF THE PASTOR TO THE CHURCH CABINET  
SEASON OF 1906-1907.

Presented at the first Cabinet Meeting, Oct. 1st 1906.

\*\*\*\*\*

The gathering tonight represents the interests of every branch and department of our church work. According to the constitution of the church by the recent amendment this Cabinet is composed of the pastor, senior deacon, chairman of the prudential committee, clerk, treasurer, superintendent of the Sunday school, president of the young people's society, and two delegates representing the men of the church, and two delegates representing the women.

The purpose for which this body exists is to bring every activity of the church into the completest harmony with every other, to unify and promote our work by the fullest intelligence and co-operation, to prevent misunderstandings, to plan new lines of work when needed, and in every way by means of our combined wisdom and influence further the interests of our church. Our possibilities are limited only by the energy with which we take hold of our duty and the amount of time and strength we are willing to devote to the work.

Besides this general statement of the nature and function of this body, it will be in order for me to state at this first meeting just what your pastor expects of you as members of the Cabinet. In brief these are the requirements: 1. The closest possible devotion to your executive duties. In the main this body is composed of the executives of the several branches of our work, viz., the







church corporation, the board of deacons, the prudential committee, the Sunday school, the young people's society. In each one of these spheres, and later I trust also in the Women's Association and the Men's Fraternity, you will find urgent need and abundant opportunity for the employment of all the executive talent you possess. Let nothing, no pressure of daily work, no demands of society, no personal grievance real or fancied stand in the way of your utter devotion to the important duties which Christ, Our Head, has laid upon you. 2. Faithful attendance upon the meetings of the Cabinet. We shall meet regularly once each month, and I speak advisedly when I say that there is no meeting of the church which equals this one in importance. In this gathering are born of God those ideas and plans upon which the success of South Church depends. "Here, moreover, it is required of stewards that a man be found faithful". 3. In addition to your regular attendance I shall expect from each one of you who represents an organized activity of the church, a written report of the doings and progress of the particular branch of the church for which you are the delegate. These reports will be of almost inestimable value. They will form a body of historical data in the hands of our clerk which for reference purposes alone will more than repay the trouble involved in their preparation. But the chief value of them will be to put before this gathering in concise form the exact situation of each one of our church auxiliaries so that we can make our plans with certainty, and adapt them perfectly to our several needs. But not the least advantage of these written reports will be the contribution which their preparation will make to the writers in crystalizing their ideas of the subject, and clarifying their views as to the needs, limitations, and possibilities of the work in hand. As pastor I



church corporation, the board of deacons, the prudential committee, the Sunday school, the young people's society. In each one of these spheres, and later I trust also in the Women's Association and the Men's Fraternity, you will find urgent need and abundant opportunity for the employment of all the executive talent you possess. Let nothing, no pressure of daily work, no demands of society, no personal grievance real or fancied stand in the way of your utter devotion to the important duties which Christ, Our Head, has laid upon you. 2. Faithful attendance upon the meetings of the Cabinet. We shall meet regularly once each month, and I speak advisedly when I say that there is no meeting of the church which equals this one in importance. In this gathering are born of God those ideas and plans upon which the success of South Church depends. Here, moreover, it is required of stewards that a man be found faithful. 3. In addition to your regular attendance I shall expect from each one of you who represents an organized activity of the church, a written report of the doings and progress of the particular branch of the church for which you are the delegate. These reports will be of almost incalculable value. They will form a body of historical data in the hands of our clerk which for reference purposes alone will more than repay the trouble involved in their preparation. But the chief value of them will be to put before this gathering in concise form the exact situation of each one of our church units so that we can make our plans with certainty and adapt them perfectly to our several needs. But not the least advantage of these written reports will be the contribution which their preparation will make to the writer in crystallizing their ideas of the subject, and clarifying their vision as to the needs, limitations, and possibilities of the work in hand. As pastor I



shall always present a written report of my official activities, together with such recommendations as may seem wise.

Altho I have already presented one such report to the Advisory Committee which preceeded this body prior to the adoption of the amendment to the constitution, I will at this time briefly summarize the pastor's official activity since assuming charge of South Church Sept.1st.

Eleven sermons have been prepared and delivered: also two public addresses, viz. at the Essex County Agricultural Society's Banquet; and the Rally Day exercises. 24 pastoral calls have been made, mainly upon the sick.; and 13 pastoral letters have been written. 24 meetings of various sorts aside from the pulpit services have been attended in an official capacity, including five sessions of the Sunday school, the young people's society, the Sunday morning prayer meeting, the people's meeting, 1 session of the Advisory Committee, the Women's Association, a Y.M.C.A. Conference, and a meeting of our teachers.

Now as to some suggestions for our work. Tonight the chief business of the hour will be to arrange for the immediate publication of our October calendars of service. We should also adopt a regular time of meeting which I would suggest should be the third Wednesday of each month. By motion of the church we are to adopt a motto for the church year. The pastor would like to see some action taken looking toward the appointment of a central entertainment committee composed of delegates from our auxiliaries which should plan a course of socials, concerts, lectures and entertainments for the season.

Relying upon your unremitting co-operation in our work, I remain

Cordially your friend and pastor  
Arthur Dietrick



